



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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PRESIDENT REAGAN SELECTS FRANK H. DUNKLE

TO HEAD INTERIOR'S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel said today he was "delighted" with President Reagan's announcement that he will nominate Frank H. Dunkle to be Director of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The position requires confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

"Frank Dunkle has a solid record of achievement in the fish and wildlife field," Hodel said, "and has the mix of private, state and federal experience that is a key to effectiveness in this complex assignment."

Dunkle, now FWS Coordinator for the Colorado River Endangered Fishes Project in Denver, began his career in wildlife management as a special warden with the Montana Fish and Game Department in 1947 while an undergraduate at Montana State University. He joined the Department as an Education Assistant in 1955 after Korean War service and after completion of Bachelors and Masters Degrees in wildlife management at Montana State.

Working in jobs of increasing responsibility in the Department, Dunkle became Chief of the Information and Education Division in 1959 and Director of the Department in 1963. He left state service in 1972 to enter the Republican primary for Governor. He lost the primary race by less than 2,000 votes.

After the election, Dunkle founded the Ecological Consulting Service in Helena. In 1974 he was elected to the Montana State Senate and a year later founded the Resource Education Foundation in Helena. From 1978 to 1980 he was Executive Director of the Montana Mining Association.

Dunkle became the Executive Director of the Montana State Republican State Central Committee in 1980. In 1981 he joined the federal government as Staff Director, Mountain Plains Federal Regional Council. When the council was abolished in 1983, he joined FWS in Denver.

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Born in Oakmont, Pennsylvania in 1924, Dunkle is a past president of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners; 1970 Chairman of the Central Flyway Council; and a member of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

He was named an Outstanding State Legislator of the Year in 1977 by the National Association of State and Federal Employees, and has received the Green Leaf Award from The Nature Conservancy, the Sears Foundation 1968 Water Conservation Award for Montana, the 1971 American Motors National Conservation Award, and the National Rifle Association's Hunter Safety Award for 1967.

A veteran of Navy service in World War II and Korea, Dunkle is a Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

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